

1. A portable medication holder for holding a medication container and discharging a liquid agent therefrom, the portable medication holder comprising:

a housing including a first wall forming a chamber or part thereof;

5 an air pathway passing through the chamber;

a second wall engaging the first wall, and moveable between a closed position in which the chamber and air pathway are sealed and an open position in which the air pathway is open;

10 evaporation means to assist in evaporation of the liquid agent into air in the air pathway;

a medication discharge chute for directing the air pathway to a user; and

opening means for opening the medication container and releasing the liquid agent to the evaporation means.

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2. The portable medication holder of claim 1 including the medication container located in the chamber or in fluid communication with the chamber.

20 3. The portable medication holder of claim 2, wherein the medication container is a vial, ampoule bottle or canister and is frangible, at least in part.

4. The portable medication holder of claim 3, wherein the liquid agent is methoxyflurane.

25 5. The portable medication holder of claim 3, wherein the second wall is formed as a cover or sleeve.

6. The portable medication holder of claim 3 wherein the opening means is automatically activated by moving the second wall to the open position.

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7. The portable medication holder of claim 3, wherein the opening means includes a striker adapted to open the medication container.

8. The portable medication holder of claim 7, wherein the striker is activated by sliding the second wall to the open position.
- 5 9. The portable medication holder of claim 3, wherein the opening means includes a punch to open a frangible seal in the container.
- 10 10. The portable medication holder of claim 3, wherein the opening means includes a seat to grip a cap, which may be a screw cap, of the container.
11. The portable medication holder of claim 2, wherein the opening means includes a plunger to pressurise and discharge the liquid agent.
- 15 12. The portable medication holder of claim 2, wherein the evaporation means comprises a wick material.
- 20 13. The portable medication holder of claim 2, wherein the evaporation means comprises an evaporation plate or plates or a grid.
- 25 14. The portable medication holder of claim 2, wherein the evaporation means forms a serpentine or tortuous path as part of the air pathway.
15. The portable medication holder of claim 1, wherein the medication chute is rotatable between a stowed position and a deployed position.
- 30 16. The portable medication holder of claim 1, wherein the medication chute further includes a gas line for delivering a respiratory gas.
17. The portable medication holder of claim 1, wherein the medication chute includes an auxiliary air inlet adapted for occlusion by a digit of a user.

18. The portable medication holder of claim 1, further including one or more one-way valves in the intake air pathway to provide unidirectional inspiratory airflow.

5 19. The portable medication holder of claim 18, wherein the medication chute is in fluid connection with an outlet one-way valve for expired air.

10 20. The portable medication holder of claim 19, wherein the medication chute is in fluid connection with a filter for removing medication from expired air.

21. The portable medication holder of claim 2, wherein the portable medication holder is sealed against the external environment when not in use.

15 22. The portable medication holder of claim 6 including a strap, preferably a wrist strap, attached to the second wall.

- 6 -

As noted, in inclement circumstances, the risk of contamination may be significant. A sealed, safe and robust storage arrangement would be of advantage, particularly if designed for easy and effective use when required.

5 Use of therapeutics in emergency situations may present different risks which can be highly serious. Delivery of an analgesic, for example, requires an arrangement that is robust, reliable and easy to operate. This is particularly the case in the circumstance of self-administration where a user may be, at least partially, incapacitated by injury or people lending assistance may be untrained in first aid.

10 Reference to any prior art in this specification is not, and should not be taken as, an acknowledgement or any form of suggestion that this prior art forms part of the common general knowledge in any country.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

15 Throughout this specification, unless the context requires otherwise, the word "comprise", or variations such as "comprises" or "comprising", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated element or integer or group of elements or integers but not the exclusion of any other element or integer or group of elements or integers.

20 In one aspect, the invention may reside in a portable medication holder for holding a medication container and discharging a liquid agent therefrom, the portable medication holder comprising a housing including a first wall forming a chamber of part thereof;

25 an air pathway passing through the chamber, a second wall engaging the first wall, and moveable between a closed position in which the chamber and air pathway are sealed and an open position in which the air pathway is open, evaporation means to assist in evaporation of the liquid agent into air in the air pathway;

a medication discharge chute for directing the air pathway to a user;
and

30 opening means for opening the medication container and releasing the liquid agent to the evaporation means.

- 6A -

The device may include the medication container located in the chamber or in fluid communication with the chamber.

5 The medication container may be a vial, ampoule bottle or canister and is frangible, at least in part.

The liquid agent is preferably methoxyflurane.

The second wall may be formed as a cover or sleeve.

Preferably the opening means is automatically activated by moving the second wall to the open position.

10 The opening means may include a striker adapted to open the medication container.

The striker may be activated by sliding the second wall to the open position.

15 The opening means may include a punch to open a frangible seal in the container.

The opening means may include a seat to grip a cap, which may be a screw cap, of the container.

Alternatively or additionally, the opening means may include a plunger to pressurise and discharge the liquid agent.

20 The evaporation means may comprise a wick material.

Alternatively the evaporation means may comprise an evaporation plate or plates or a grid.

The evaporation means preferably forms a serpentine or tortuous path as part of the air pathway.

25 The medication chute is preferably rotatable between a stowed position and a deployed position.

The medication chute may further include a gas line for delivering a respiratory gas.

30 The medication chute may include an auxiliary air inlet adapted for complete or partial occlusion by a user.

- 6B -

The portable medication holder may include one or more one-way valves in the intake air pathway to provide unidirectional inspiratory airflow.

5 The medication chute is preferably in fluid connection with an outlet one-way valve for expired air.

The medication chute may be in fluid connection with a filter for removing medication from expired air.

Preferably the portable medication holder is sealed against the external environment when not in use.

10 The portable medication holder may include a strap, preferably a wrist strap attached to the second wall.

In one alternative form, although it need not be the only or indeed the broadest form, the invention resides in a medication holder, the medication holder comprising:

15 a housing including a first wall defining a cavity dimensioned to receive and enclose, at least in part, a medication container; and
a second wall abutting the first wall and moveable relative thereto;
wherein:

20 the second wall may be moved reversibly between a first closed position to a second open position, the second open position providing or facilitating access to a medication discharge outlet of the medication container wherein the cavity is sealed against ingress of moisture or other contaminants when the second wall is in the closed position.

25 The medication holder may include a medication container positioned in the cavity.

Positioning of the second wall in the second open position preferably provides or clears an airflow pathway for inhalation and, optionally, expiration. The